

container carrier (16), the carrier (16) being horizontally movable along the guide (17) in two directions, as shown in Figs. 4 and 7. As the reagent container carrier (16) moves the container (12) in a first direction relative to the plunger (11), the plunger (11) engages the catch (15) and opens the lid as shown in Figs. 3 and 4. When the reagent-container carrier (16) moves the container (12) in a second, opposite direction relative to the plunger (11), the plunger (11) engages the catch (15) and closes the lid (14) as shown in Figs. 6 and 7. The plunger (11), which causes the reagent-container stopper (13) to open and close, can be actuated by the appliance according to the invention. The catch (15) is preferably designed in a such a way that, in the limit position, it can be elastically deflected so far by the plunger that the plunger (11) can be moved beyond the limit position on the reagent container (12).

#### **IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claim 7 as follows:

7. (Twice Amended) An appliance for opening and closing reagent container stoppers in partially or fully automatic analysis apparatus, comprising:

a plunger for opening and closing a reagent container stopper by engaging and releasing a catch on the reagent container stopper, the plunger movable between an at rest position and a working position;

an automatic conveyor for moving the reagent container relative to the plunger, wherein the conveyor is movable in a first direction to place the plunger in a position to open the stopper, and wherein the conveyor is movable in a second direction, opposite to the first direction, to place the plunger in a position to close the stopper; and

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